

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**GLENN K. MURANAKA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 20, 2019**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1148 SD2**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 1148 SD2. This bill provides funding for loans to ranchers and farmers affected by natural disasters through the Department's Agricultural Loan Program. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

The Department believes that the funding being placed in the agricultural loan program will carry out the intent of this legislation in a timely manner. Supporting the many affected agriculturalists across the state is of the utmost importance to the Department. Recovery from natural disasters is a long road, and the Department will be there to support local farmers and ranchers in their efforts to revive agricultural production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 1148 SD2 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 1148 SD2 relating to agriculture. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position that was provided in testimony to SB 1148 SD1 with comment that reflects the positive changes made in this revision.

2018 was a difficult year for agriculture. Torrential rains hurt the taro and ornamental plant industries on Kaua'i and O'ahu. Volcanic eruption decimated approximately 50% of the papaya industry and severely hurt the orchid industry, while also having a negative effect on the bee industry. Multiple hurricanes compounded the problems as did frequent wildfires. Hawai'i needs to be prepared for the certain eventuality that this is a foreboding of disasters to come as our climate continues to change due to human influence.

Disaster relief generally follows a pattern: (1) search and rescue, (2) emergency relief, (3) early recovery, (4) medium to long-term recovery, and (5) community development. These steps pertain to agriculture with the exception of the first. Steps 2 and 3 need to happen as quickly as possible. This bill addresses step 3 - early recovery by providing grants and loans.

We support the changes made in the previous version and thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. We also defer to the Department of Agriculture and their input on manpower and funding needs to accomplish the goal set by the legislature.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
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March 20, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1148, SD2**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 1148, SD2**, which appropriates funds for the department of agriculture to provide grants and loans to ranchers and farmers negatively affected by natural disasters through an agricultural disaster funds program.

2018 was a particularly difficult year for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. The historic torrential rains and disastrous floods on Kauai and Oahu in April, the Kilauea eruption which caused devastation from lava and ash on Hawaii Island, Hurricane Lane and Tropical Storm Olivia were major natural disasters that had a drastic impact to Hawaii's agriculture industry. Unfortunately, Hawaii farmers and ranchers have been and will continually be impacted by damaging weather or natural disasters such as epidemic disease, pest outbreaks, high wind, thunderstorms, hurricanes, fire, flood, earthquakes, lava flow, vog or other volcanic activity, droughts, and tidal waves.

An Agricultural Disaster Funds Program that offers grants and loans would enable HDOA to quickly respond to agricultural emergencies by assisting farmers and ranchers with funding to help repair damaged infrastructure, replant crops, or replace equipment and supplies allowing them to continue farming or ranching.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

**SB-1148-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:12:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1148 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of SB 1148.

Agriculture is a very important industry to our community, but it is a difficult industry to successfully start and sustain, given the many unpredictable factors and expenses. With the difficulty in sustaining an agricultural operation (including farming and ranching), a natural disaster can have a huge impact and can be devastating. Therefore, we support this bill to provide grants and loans to farmers negatively affected by natural disasters because without these grants and loans, we may see more agricultural operations cease and be unable to recover.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Tumpap*

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment  
for business, advocating for a responsive government and  
quality education, while preserving Maui's unique



March 13, 2019

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn De Coite, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

**Support of SB 1148, SD2, Relating to Agricultural Disaster Funds  
(Appropriates funds into and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund for  
the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to provide loans to local ranchers and  
farmers negatively affected by natural disasters.)**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 9:00 a.m., in Conference Room 312**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 1148, SD2** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

**SB 1148, SD2.** This bill appropriates funds in and out of the agricultural loan revolving loan fund for the DOA to provide loans to support local ranchers and farmers who have experienced losses caused by natural disasters.

**LURF's Position.** LURF members include farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider such assistance very helpful, if not critical to the conduct of their operations and to help sustain their businesses.

As this Committee is aware, in addition to the devastating costs and effects farmers and ranchers may suffer in connection with unavoidable natural disasters, the already unsustainable costs cast upon agricultural stakeholders by various safety and security standards, programs and regulations; onerous regulations relating to maintenance and operation of water systems and infrastructure; and growing and processing machinery and facilities, are all proving to be potentially counterproductive to the long-term

objective of sustainable agriculture. In the event of natural disaster, recovery efforts must be undertaken and implemented efficiently to ensure that damaged farm infrastructure, crops, and land are restored as quickly as possible.

The purpose of this bill is consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution, “to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands.”

LURF therefore appreciates the objective of SB 1148, SD2, which is to support agriculture and provide needed assistance to agriculture-related or agribusinesses operations. Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be meaningless without implementation of such measures. The appropriation of funds into and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund to provide loans for local ranchers and farmers negatively affected by natural disasters is critically needed to help support viable agricultural activity in this State.

By recognizing the significance of, and need to assist the local agriculture industry, and implement incentives and measures which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## Board of Directors 2018 - 2020

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Joshua Uyehara

Vice-President  
Warren Mayberry

Secretary  
Dawn Bicoy

Treasurer  
Laurie Yoshida

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Alan Takemoto  
Adolf Helm  
Leslie Campaniano  
Dan Clegg  
Joshua Uyehara  
Warren Mayberry

President Emeritus  
Alan Takemoto

Executive Director  
Bennette Misalucha

## TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of SB1148, SD2  
Relating to Agriculture

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
March 20, 2019, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

Chair Creagan and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) strongly supports SB1148, SD2, which appropriates funding to the Department of Agriculture to provide grants and loans to ranchers and farmers negatively affected by natural disasters through an agricultural disaster funds program.

Hawaii farmers were devastated in 2018 by statewide floods and volcanic eruptions on Hawaii Island. It is estimated that the severe weather on Kauai and Oahu resulted in \$19.7 million in losses for farmers while the Kilauea eruptions caused \$27.9 million in farm losses.

This bill will provide our local farmers with the financial support needed to rebuild and restore damaged farm infrastructure, crops, and land, and, ultimately, meet the State's goal to double food production and ensure sustainable food production systems.

Please vote yes on SB1148, SD2 to help local farmers succeed. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Bennette Misalucha  
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*



Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United  
Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association  
Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research  
Foundation of Hawai'i  
Malama Kaua'i  
Maui School Garden  
Network  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical  
Agriculture and Human  
Resources - University of  
Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 9:00 AM - Room 312

**RE: SB 1148 SD2 - Relating to Agriculture – In Support**

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **strongly supports** SB 1148 SD2, which appropriates funds into and out of the agricultural loan revolving fund for the Department of Agriculture to provide loans to local ranchers and farmers negatively affected by natural disasters.

2018 was a tough year for many farmers and ranchers. Growers faced the brunt of the heavy rainfall, hurricanes, tropical storms and Kilauea eruptions, flooding many viable crops and displacing many ranchers. Agricultural losses reported from Big Island, Kauai, and Oahu totaled \$47,600,000, which emphasizes the dire need for these recovery funds to help our ranchers and farmers restore their livelihoods.

Based on the October 2018 “Farm Disaster Survey Results” conducted by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, 87% of those surveyed indicated they are willing to start over and relocate.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 1148 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

John Garibaldi  
808-544-8319  
[jgaribaldi@wik.com](mailto:jgaribaldi@wik.com)

**SB-1148-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:53:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1148-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 8:32:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lawrence Ford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs to be as self sufficient as possible in growing its own food. This will help in cases of emergency.

**SB-1148-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:58:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

### **Multiple Testifiers in Support of SB1148**

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, & members of the committee,

I support SB 1148, SD 2, which appropriates funds for the department of agriculture to provide grants and loans to ranchers and farmers negatively affected by natural disasters through an agricultural disaster funds program.

An Agricultural Disaster Funds Program that offers grants and loans would enable HDOA to quickly respond to agricultural emergencies by assisting farmers and ranchers with funding to help repair damaged infrastructure, replant crops, or replace equipment and supplies allowing them to continue farming or ranching.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

## Multiple Testifiers in Support of SB1148

First	Last
Karen	Ah Mai
Dusty	Alderks
Shelly	Anderson
Rhonda	Anduha
Lee	Barham
Jamie	Barton
Luana	Beck
Phil	Becker
Randy	Cabral
Justin	Cadiz
Jimmy	Chan
Valerie	Correa
Nicole	Correa
Jill	Coryell
Verna	Eguires
Verna	Eguires
Kirk	Fausett
Clyde	Fukuyama
Donald	Gerbig
John	Gordines
Rodney	Haraguchi
Karol	Haraguchi
Richard	Hartmann
Brenda	Iokepa-Moses
Stephanie	Iona
Larry	Jefts
Jaclyn	Kaina
Edward	Kawamura
Joseph	Kekedi
Megan	Kono
Melvin	Kunitake
Donald	Lau
Shelley	Masui
Melvin	Matsuda
Kylie	Matsuda-Lum
Jill	Mattos
Ronald	McKeehan
Frederick	Mencher
Marvin	Miura
Melissa	Moncata
Elton	Mow
Laurie	Murphy
Joanna	Nobriga
Lorie	Obra
Dean	Okimoto

Esket	Padeken
Robert	Paull
Mark	Phillipson
Mark	Phillipson
Susan	Schenck
Bruce	Schnicker
James	Simpliciano
Donald	Sommer
Sarah	Styan
Alan	Tada
Gerrit	Takasaki
Young	Tarring
James	Tavares
Justin	Teixeira
Glenn	Toyama
Alvin	Tsuruda
Luly	Unemori
Heidi	Watanabe
Michelle	Watkins
Bronson	Yadao
Louis	Yang
Reid	Yoshida